

TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

LONDON, 25th February, 10.55 a.m.

NEARER TO LADYSMITH—ENEMY RETREATING.

It is unofficially announced that General Buller is now steadily advancing on Ladysmith. News was telegraphed from the town on Friday that the Boer forces were retreating northwards in large numbers. Commandant Cronje's position remains unchanged.

REPULSE OF REINFORCEMENTS FOR CRONJE.

LONDON, 25th February, 8.10 p.m.

General Roberts, reporting that a force of Boers from Natal attacked the British outposts on Friday. Their casualties were considerable, and they lost a hundred prisoners, including a Commandant and three Field Cornets. The British loss was nine killed, twenty-seven wounded, and two missing.

REUTERS SERVICE.

LONDON, 24th February.

GENERAL BULLER'S ADVANCE.

The Boer force of the high-ridges near Netherpoort, opposing General Buller with big guns and rifles. The advance is slow.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The Navy estimates show an increase of about a million.

VOLUNTEER GAZETTE SERVICE.

LONDON, 25th February.

TWO OFFICERS KILLED NEAR STORMBERG.

Capt. Raymond (Montgomery), of Montgomery's Horse, and Col. Harker, of the Middlesex Volunteer Artillery, were killed in a skirmish near Stormberg.

ATTEMPTED RELIEF OF THE FREE STATES.

Lord Roberts (Parliamentary) 24th instant, says that strong parties of the Boers from Natal yesterday, who attacked the British outposts, lost a good many killed and wounded, about 100 prisoners, including a Commandant and three Field Cornets. The British lost 3 killed and 20 wounded, the latter including Major, of the Buffs, Capt. Pearson and Lieutenant Gunthorpe and Wardle, of the Yorkshires. The losses on the 21st and 22nd were 14 wounded, including Field, of the Suffolk Borderers.

LORD ROBERTS OFFER REFUSED.

Dowager reports that Commandant Cronje is willing to surrender, but that the young Transvaal refuse to do so. Lord Roberts's offer for a safe conduct for women and children and the loss of doctors and medicines was not refused.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

NEWS VIA LONDON.

THE GOVERNMENT ARMY SERVICE.

EXPLANATION IN PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Commons this evening Lord Lansdowne explained the Army Service of the Government. It was stated that the Government had decided to provide a full array of 100,000 men which would form a reserve for further reinforcements for South Africa. It was proposed to add to the army fifteen battalions, 30 batteries of Artillery, and 100 squadrons of Cavalry. The total strength would be 100,000 men, 100 batteries, and 100 squadrons, making a total force of nearly 100,000.

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INTIMATIONS.

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C-Watson's Abellour-Glenlivet Red Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark, 12.00.

D-Watson's H.K.D. Blend of the Finest Scotch Malt Whiskies, Violet Capsule, 14.40.

E-Watson's Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky, Gold Capsule, 15.00.

Thorne's Blend and Watson's Glenorchy are high class Soda Whiskies, of greater age than most brands in the market.

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P.O. Box 33. Telephone No. 112.

BIRTH.

At 14, Knutsford Terrace, on the 26th instant, the wife of JOHN FARMER, Marine Engineer, of a daughter.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, February 27th, 1906.

There is little doubt from what we have seen that the present impasse in China is really the result of the policy adopted two centuries ago. Nations do not rapidly fall into decay; and to the student of history who is accustomed to sift the evidence of human actions there will seem little doubt that even in the more powerful days of the Teiwo dynasty the seeds of dissolution were already sown. The government has been one of distrust, and the Manchus have been from the beginning a foreign element. They were, however, amply enough to see how admirably the system of Confucius, introduced by CHU HI, could be made to serve their end, and this, and not any admiration for the system itself or consideration for Chinese ideas, was the leading motive for the acceptance by the Manchus of the Chinese philosophy in its entirety. In this affair the Chinese became willing slaves; and remained all unconscious of the fetters they had forged for themselves. So now, consistently enough, when at this last hour the Manchus party are seeking to tighten their grip on an unwilling people, it is by returning to the unyielding policy of CHU HI and invoking the prejudices of the official class that they hope to effect their purposes. It is this fact which, unconscious of its motives, the Powers most anxious to promote the disintegration of China have seized hold of, and it is for this circumstance that it is "notoriously to the advantage of the Russian party that the supercession of the Emperor is due." In this respect the position of affairs in Peking at the moment is not very unlike what it was in the last days of the Ming, when the progress of the Manchus within than by prowess without. This too, explains the undisputed interest towards England displayed by the Dowager Empress and her entourage. It is no secret that the French Government has been sedulously supplying the Empress Dowager, through the Tientsin Yamen, with false telegrams carefully concocted at Paris with the assistance of the notorious Dr. Lepus. We have become used to the value of these and have learned to trust them at their proper value. There is unfortunately too much reason to suspect that only the milder are permitted to reach the public gaze, while others even more fraudulent are carefully sent to the Tientsin Yamen, where they are gladly received. The idea that England may be left out of consideration altogether was doubtless at the bottom of the coup intended for the Chinese New Year. It is also the leading motive in the outrage that has occurred in Shanghai, and so many, we fear, attribute to a like intention the last outrage in Yunnan. It is

now within a few days a quarter of a century since MANCHU, on the 21st February, 1875, was murdered at Mowmy. There was at the time no reason to doubt that Peking was deeply compromised in the affair, but unfortunately our Minister at Peking was more bent on exonerating the Chinese Government than in obtaining securities for the future, and was led into the form of the "Chiao Convention." But for some time the temper of the English people was dangerous, and however complacent—the representative at Peking personally was, his instructions were known, and we had not for some time another affair of the sort to deal with. It is, however, significant that when momentarily our hands are tied should be selected for two such outrages as the murder of Mr. Brooks and the attack on the Boundary Commission. At present we still only know from the brief summary supplied from Chinese official sources of the occurrence (two quite a few particulars elsewhere), and must, of course, suspend our judgment till fuller particulars arrive. But it is a suspicious circumstance that the outrage should have occurred in close proximity to the scene of MANCHU's murder, and that it should have been under somewhat similar conditions. It is also indicative of the explosive nature of the agencies at work that a time should be selected for these outrages when Russia is notoriously musing her troops on the borders of Korea, and is strengthening her garrison at Merv. On the other hand, it is more satisfactory to find a better understanding amongst the older Powers. The unnatural alliance of Russia and France at ordinary times would be permitted to expend itself and die its natural death, but as it is evidently intended as a cover for some strange advance in which the interests of the others are concerned, it is satisfactory in the cause of order to find a growing understanding. Still China is likely to be the body reserved for the next experiment, and with China is closely associated the whole question of the Pacific. In this respect Mr. Hay's diplomatic note, as leading up to the recognition of some settled policy, may eventually have a considerable influence on the turn of events.

A full report of yesterday's Supreme Court will be found in to-day's supplement.

H.M.S. "Glenorchy," commissioned at Hongkong on February 25th to take on board to H.M. ships, "Albatross," "Phaenix," and "Waterwitch" at Hongkong.

The return of the Number of Cases of Communicable Disease in the Colony during the week ending 24th February shows no fresh cases of Plague and only one case of cholera, one of dysentery, four cases of enteric fever, one case of typhoid, and two cases and two deaths from smallpox.

News comes from Calcutta that Sir William Lockhart's illness was not so serious that it is probable his medical advisers will urge him to leave Calcutta as soon as he is able to travel. In case he is ordered home the appointment of Commandant-General will be given to Colonel Macdonald-Clark, who is now in Calcutta.

A writer in "L'Espresso," speaking of the "Pax" and his wish for peace, believes that day to be distant when Europe in condition will be faced by the inevitable necessity of settling a bound to the unmeasured ambition of the Anglo-Saxon race. The statement is also very probable, not with intent to amuse.

The locality in Bombay at the 7th instant, reached the unprecedented figure of 485. Wildly, this is largely due to the prevalence of cholera, dysentery, and other diseases, which are very common in the Indian climate. The number of deaths is also very high, and the situation is very serious.

The steam yacht "Siam," with Lord Brassey, Governor of Victoria, on board, arrived at Singapore on the 24th instant. The yacht was on her way to Australia, and was expected to arrive at Melbourne on the 28th instant, and on the 29th to proceed to Perth, and thence to London. The yacht was commanded by Lord Brassey, and was accompanied by Lord Hinchinbrooke, Captain and Mrs. Pakenham, and a large party.

A letter which left Ladysmith by a native runner on January 21st has come to hand. It states that General Buller's guns are eagerly watching the Boer position with freckles. As each shot strikes the Boer position, the Boers are so much alarmed that they are unable to fire. The Boers are so much alarmed that they are unable to fire. The Boers are so much alarmed that they are unable to fire.

An interesting development in the petroleum trade is indicated by the arrival of the steamer "Siam" from Hongkong, with a cargo of kerosene oil. This is the first of the kind of oil which has been imported into the colony since the arrival of the "Siam" from Hongkong, with a cargo of kerosene oil. This is the first of the kind of oil which has been imported into the colony since the arrival of the "Siam" from Hongkong, with a cargo of kerosene oil.

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